Procurement of milk by private companies

1699. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale of milk procurement by newly established private companies for conversion into value added products is threatening to disrupt liquid milk availability in the capital; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to see that the capital does not face acute milk shortage, particularly in the ensuing summer season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Dtes not arise.

Australian cooperation in the field of pulse production

1700. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Western Australia is shortly setting up an office in India and has planned to produce pulses for India from next year;

(b) if so, where is the office going to be located;

(c) the nature of the assistance which Western Australia proposes to render to India for production of pulses;

(d) whether any long-term plan has been or is being formulated to make the country self-sufficient in the production of various kinds of pulses; and

(e) if so, its broad features and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) Western Australia is considering to open an office in India. The other details of location and type of assistance has not yet been finalised.

(d) and (e) To increase production of pulses National Pulses Development Programme (NPDP) is under implementation in 26 States and Union Territories. Under this programme assistance is provided for the production and distribution of seeds, Rhzobin culture, farm implements, spintler-set. In addition, frontline demonstration and block demonstration are organised in the farmers' field to transfer the production technology. The training programme for extension workers and farmers are also organised. This programme will continue during 8th Plan upto 1996-97.

Fish production in Maharashtra and Assam

1701. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total fish production in Maharashtra and Assam;

(b) out of this how much is the fresh water fish production;

(c) what is the total potential of fish production in the above States per year; and

(d) what is being done to exploit the potential fully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The total and freshwater fish production in Maharashtra and Assam during 1993-94 is as under:

Fish Production (.0000 tonnes)

	Total	Freshwater
Maharashtra	433.6	83.2
Assam	151.6	151.6

(c) The potential for fish production in Maharashtra in the marine sector lies within 112000 sq. kms. of continental shelf along its 720 kms of coast line. In the inland fisheries sector, the potential

mainly lies in 3200 km stretch of rivers and canals, 2.79 lakh ha. area of reservoirs, 32000 ha. area under tanks and ponds. In Assam, the potential lies in 4 820 km. stretch of rivers and canals, 110,000 ha. of flood-plain lakes, 55.000 ha. area under reservoirs and 21,000 ha. area under tanks and ponds. The annual production potential from these resources depends on the fishing efforts, technology, craft, gear, etc. deployed in harnessing these capture and culture fishery resources.

(d) The Government have been operating a number of Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes to exploit the resources to the maximum possible level. In Assam the major schemes in operation are:

(i) Freshwater aquaculture.

(ii) Assistance for strengthing fish marketing.

In Maharashtra, in addition to the above schemes, the following are also being implemented;

(i) Fishery harbour facilities at major ports.

(ii) Providing fishery harbour/landing centre facilities at minor ports.

(iii) Integrated brackishwater fish farm development.

(iv) Development of coastal marine fisheries

(a) Motorisation of traditional craft.

(b) Reimbursement of excise duty on HSD Oil.

Proposal for expension of Muraina and Chindwara Plant

1702. SHRI KAILASH NARAIN SARANG: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 2463 given in the Rajya Sabha on 12th August, 1994 and state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has since recommended proposals for the expansion of the Muraina plant and Chindwara plant of the Cooperative Oil Seeds Association of the National Cooperative Development Corporation for approval;

(b) if so, what is the cost thereof and when the same were revived; and

(c) whether the National Cooperative Development Corporation has taken any action on these proposals; if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) Madhya Pradesh Government have not made any change in the earlier proposals for expansion of Muraina and Chindwara plants of MP State Oilseed Growers' Federation (MPOILFED) after August, 1994. Muraina expansion project with a cost of Rs. 30.58 crore was recommended by the State Government to National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) on 7.4.94. It was appraised by NCDC in September, 1994. In view of the non-satisfactory functioning of the unit and the heavy losses incurred by MPOILFED, the National Cooperative Development Corporation had suggested to the State Government that the MPOILFED might improve the capacity utilisation and consolidation of its financial position before the proposal could be considered.

As regard Chindwara project, the same was submitted by the State Government to NCDC on 9.2.93 with a cost of Rs. 28.25 crore. The appraisal of the project was deferred by NCDC till the unit stabilised in operations. In the meantime, the MPOILFED pruned the project cost to Rs. 9.54 crore and the revised proposal was submitted by the MPOILFED to NCDC in December, 93. However, this has not been recommended by the State Government so far.

Production of High Quality Potatoes

1703. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether potato marketing company of Netherlands known as 'Agrico' has offered to introduce high quality potatoes in India: